

S.N. 10/027,744
Art Unit 3721
Atty Dkt PP 5.71(c)

REMARKS

Claims 20-94 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 20 and 28 have been amended herein. Claims 27 and 29-94 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer with respect to applicant's right to re-present these claims in a continuation or divisional application. Claims 21-26 remain in the application unchanged. New claims 95-102 have been added. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 20-26, 28 and 95-102 will be pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

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I. Rejection of Claim 20 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 11 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,145,736.

On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner objects to claims 21-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended independent claim 20 herein to now include the limitations previously appearing in claim 27 which depended directly from claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 27 has been canceled herein; claim 28 has been amended to depend from independent claim 20 rather than from canceled claim 27.

II. Claims 29-94

Claims 29-94, previously withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

III. New Claims 95-102

New claims 95-102 have been added herein.

As noted above, the Examiner objects to claims 21-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 95 is a combination of the subject matter of independent claim 20 and dependent claim 21 (as they appeared prior to this amendment). Accordingly, new independent claim 95 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claims 96-102 ultimately depend from independent claim 95 and

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correspond to dependent claims 22-28, respectively (again, as they appeared prior to this amendment).

In view of the above, all of the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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